

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 7 are in the application, with Claim 1 being independent.

Claims 1 and 2 have been amended herein. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Publication No. 2003/0175589 (Kaminaka). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

According to a feature of the invention as recited by Claim 1, the intermetallic compound contains tin and at least one element selected from the group consisting of copper, nickel, cobalt, iron, manganese, vanadium, molybdenum, niobium, tantalum, titanium, zircon, yttrium, lanthanum, selenium, magnesium and silver.

Kaminaka is not seen to disclose or suggest at least the above-discussed feature.

Kaminaka is merely seen to describe an intermetallic compound of Si and another element selected from Group 2A elements, transition elements, Group 3B elements, and Group 4B elements. See Abstract of Kaminaka. In this regard, the term “intermetallic compound” as used in Kaminaka is believed to refer to a compound composed of a metal and a non-metal. For example, Kaminaka describes the intermetallic compound $\text{Li}_{22}\text{Si}_3$ at para. [0029], and the intermetallic compound NiS_2 at para. [0137]. Nowhere is Kaminaka seen to disclose that his intermetallic compound contains tin and at least one element selected from the group consisting of copper, nickel, cobalt, iron, manganese, vanadium, molybdenum, niobium, tantalum, titanium, zircon, yttrium, lanthanum, selenium, magnesium and silver.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from the independent claim discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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